



Minutes Tempe Veterans Commission September 4, 2018

Minutes of the TEMPE VETERANS COMMISSION held on Tuesday, September 4, 6:00 p.m., at the East Valley Veterans Education Center, 3320 South Price Road, Tempe, Arizona.

(MEMBERS) Present:

Keith Finkle, Chair
Troy Friedman, Vice Chair
Mario Aguirre (telephonically)
William Blair
Patricia Little-Upah
Michelle Loposky
David Lucier
Matthew Schmidt
Laura Skotnicki

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Lauren Hyre

City Staff Present:

Octavia Harris, Human Services Deputy Director
Parrish Spisz, Council Aide II+

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

Chair Keith Finkle called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM

Agenda Item 2 – Public Appearances

None

Agenda Item 3 – Review and Approval of August 7, 2018 Minutes – (Motion Required)

MOTION: Commission Member Laura Skotnicki moved to APPROVE the June 5, 2018 minutes

SECOND: Motion Seconded by Commission Member William Blair; Motion passed on a 9-0 Vote

AYES: Chair Keith Finkle, Vice-Chair Troy Friedman, Commission Members Mario Aguirre, William Blair, Patricia Little-Upah, Michelle Loposky, David Lucier, Matthew Schmitt, and Laura Skotnicki

ABSENT: Commission Member Lauren Hyre

Agenda Item 4 – 2018 Boards & Commissions Annual Report Discussion

Email Commission Members a copy of last year's Commission Report to City Council and updated City Performance Measures. Prepare to have discussion at the October Commission meeting.

Agenda Item 5 – Deported Veterans and their Families Roundtable Event

Commission Member Lucier informed the Commission about an organization he's involved with called Veterans for New Americans. They advocate for immigration issues related to military veterans. There are approximately 1000 US military veterans affected by immigration policies that have resulted in their being deported. The roundtable event will be a public forum to discuss the issues of veterans and families being deported. Commission Member Lucier asked if the Commission would sponsor the event as an official Veterans Commission event. No financial obligation required.

MOTION: Commission Member William Blair moved to APPROVE Veterans Commission Sponsorship of event

SECOND: Motion Seconded by Commission Member Patricia Little-Upah; Motion passed on a 9-0 Vote

AYES: Chair Keith Finkle, Vice-Chair Troy Friedman, Commission Members Mario Aguirre, William Blair, Patricia Little-Upah, Michelle Lopusky, David Lucier, Matthew Schmitt, and Laura Skotnicki

ABSENT: Commission Member Lauren Hyre

Agenda Item 6 – Update on Arizona Veteran Supportive Employer Program

Commission Member Aguirre and fellow Arizona Coalition for Military Families staffer, Abe McCann will be meeting with the Tempe Chamber of Commerce's Military Advocacy Committee on September 12 to work on formalizing the Chamber's support of promoting and recruiting new employers into the program.

Agenda Item 7 – East Valley Veterans Education Center

Commission Vice Chair Friedman announced that soon the EVVEC will be renamed the Military and Veterans Success Center East. No official word on renaming ceremony.

EVVEC is pursuing an update of their memorandum of understanding with the Arizona Coalition of Military Families and adding the Arizona Department of Veterans Services to the partnership based on synergies related to veteran employment goals.

Agenda Item 8 – ASU Salute to Service

Commission Member Lopusky reported that Salute to Service week begins Nov 4 with a women's basketball game against Baylor University at Ft. Defiance on the Navajo Nation. It culminates with a football home game on Nov 10 against UCLA. The theme this year is Salute to Service through Service.

Agenda Item 9 – East Valley Veterans Court Update

Move to October.

Agenda Item 10 – Tempe Fire Medical Rescue VA Telemedicine Update

Move to October.

Agenda Item 11 – Commission Member Announcements

Green Beret Association 5K/10K Run on October 6 at Kiwanis Park

Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Luncheon is October 26

Southwest Veterans Chamber of Commerce Patriot's Ball is October 27

Agenda Item 12 – Future Agenda Items – October 9, 2018

- EV Veterans Court Update
- Update on TMFR/VA program
- Annual Report discussion

Agenda Item 13 - Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Next meeting will be on ~~October 9, 2018~~ October 23, 2018

Minutes Prepared by: Parrish Spisz

Reviewed by: Melissa Placencia

Keith Finkle, Chair
Tempe Veterans Commission